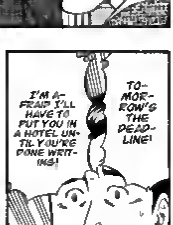
Xui Tan
2hungryazns
Translator:
Schizo
Editor:
Night
http://webchat.mibbit.com/?channels=2hungryazns

PLEASE COME IN!
MAY I ASK IF TAKANO-SENSEI IS IN?
I'M TERADA FROM KODAN-SHA'S "HISTORY MAGAZINE".
BUT HE'S GOT QUITE A FEW ARDENT FANS AND HIS BOOKS SELL WELL.
HE'S NOT AT THE TOP OF THE BEST-SELLER LISTS
FAMOUS DETECTIVE TAKANO SEIYA HAS ANOTHER IDENTITY.
HE IS, IN FACT, A FAIRLY WELL-KNOWN HISTORICAL NOVELIST!
風の盆
四剣神

SENSEI! HOW'S THE 30-PAGE SHORT STORY WE COM-MISSIONED COM-ING ALONG?
LOOKS LIKE TODAY WE'LL GET TO SHOW YOU A DIFFERENT SIDE TO SENSEI!
His tastes still so messy!



ONE NIGHT'S CHANGE OF CLOTHES WILL DO
I'LL PUT YOU IN A FIVE-STAR HOTEL, WITH A FULL MEAL AT A FANCY RESTAURANT, AND GOOD WINE. HOW ABOUT IT?
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT!

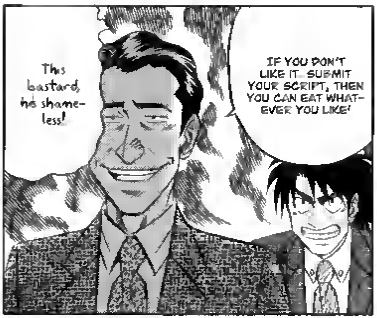
File.006

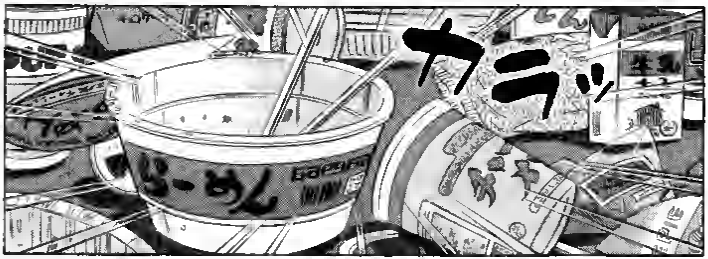
Devour Everything From Cup Noodles To Soba!

the Case Files of the Innermind Detective

ボロ…
ホテルプラサナスナ
TERADA, WHAT'S THIS?
AH?
DON'T AH AT ME! WHY ARE THERE CUP NOODLES AND BENTO BOXES?
SIGH, THE PUBLISHING BUSINESS ISN'T DOING TOO WELL LATELY.
COUGH!
OUR BUDGETS ARE TIGHTER THESE DAYS.
Even so,
the difference between a fancy meal and cup noodles - its too extreme!
BUT THAT'S ALL I BOUGHT!
DON'T THINK SNIVELLING LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WILL GET YOU OUT OF THIS!

OH - DEAR!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT AN ARTIST?
ALSO, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WRITE?


This bastard, he shameless!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SUBMIT YOUR SCRIPT, THEN YOU CAN EAT WHATEVER YOU LIKE!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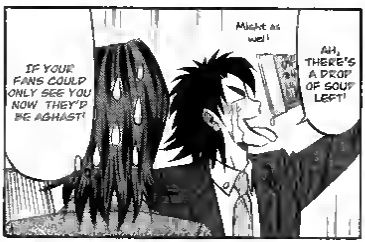
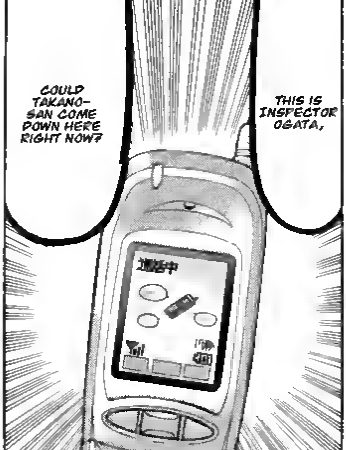
らーめん

AND YOU WERE JUST COMPLAINING
Let's see!
THAT'S ALL?

SIGH, I CAN EAT ANYTHING WITH RELISH. I'M SO PATHETIC!
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO REFUSE TO EAT?
And you're all ok now?


IF YOUR FANS COULD ONLY SEE YOU NOW, THEY'D BE AGHAST!
Might as well!
AH, THERE'S A DROP OF SOUP LEFT!

DON'T TELL ME - YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT?
WHAT SHALL I WRITE ABOUT?
ALRIGHT, LET'S START WRITING!
THE FASTER YOU FINISH, THE FASTER YOU CAN GO HOME!
Okay!
Small bubble. I was only teasing!
I'M SCREWED! I'LL NEVER MAKE EDITOR LIKE THIS!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S BECOMING A BIG DEAL...
With the help of an evil genius act!
うわなあああ
I'VE HAD E-NOUGH!
GOTTA THINK OF A WAY OUT OF HERE
わあ〜
HELLO? TAKANO HERE
HMM?
RING RING!


COULD TAKANO-SAN COME DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW?
THIS IS INSPECTOR OBATA,

TERADA-SAN, I APOLOGIZE
WHAT EVER! NO MATTER WHO THAT WAS, I'M NOT LETTING YOU TAKE A STEP OUT OF HERE!

POLICE?
F-

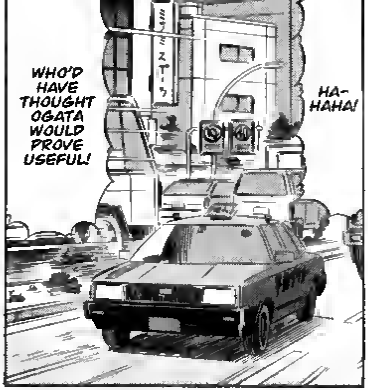
IT WAS THE POLICE

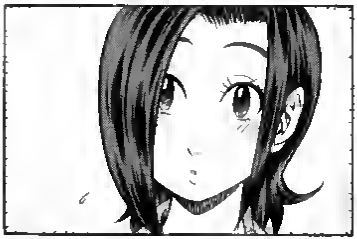
THAT'S RUDE!
W- WHAT IS THIS? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE AFTER EATING?

Your manuscript!
But- But your manuscript!

SINCE IT'S THE POLICE, A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN LIKE MYSELF HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO FULFILL MY CIVIC DUTY!
!!!

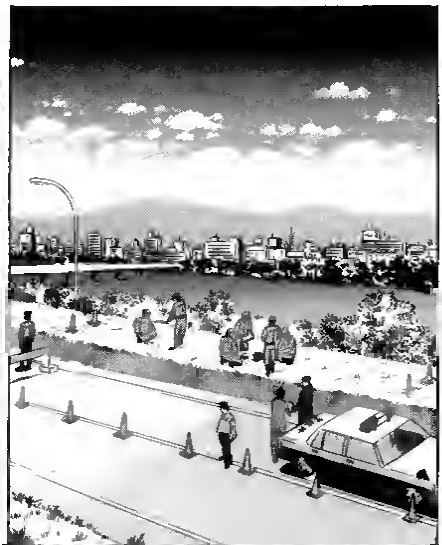
TERADA DOESN'T KNOW I HELP THE POLICE WITH THEIR INVESTI-GATIONS.
AND OGATA DOESN'T KNOW I WRITE

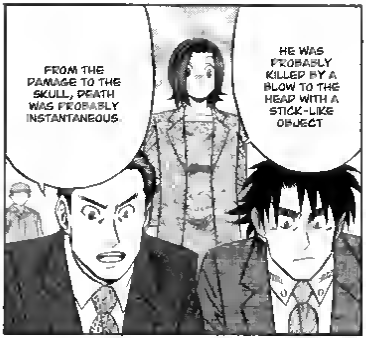

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT OGATA WOULD PROVE USEFUL!
HA-HAHA!



IS YOU! KYOKO!
THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS BOTH MY IDENT-ITIES.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING DOWN, SENPAI!



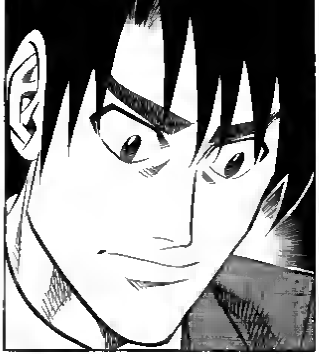

HE WAS PROBABLY KILLED BY A BLOW TO THE HEAD WITH A STICK-LIKE OBJECT
FROM THE DAMAGE TO THE SKULL, DEATH WAS PROBABLY INSTANTANEOUS

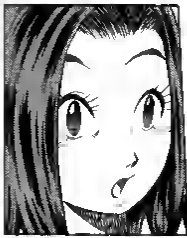
THE VICTIM IS AN UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG MALE
HE WAS DISCOVERED AN HOUR AGO BY CHILDREN PLAYING ON THE BANK

THE TIME OF DEATH WAS ROUGHLY 2-3 DAYS AGO
SOMETIME WITHIN THE PAST WEEK

SO WE HOPED TO FIND A CLUE HERE THAT WE COULD USE
I HEARD SENPAI WAS NEARBY, SO I GAVE YOU A RING
HMM

IT'S NOT NEAR ANY HOUSES, SO USUALLY THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE AROUND HERE
WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY USEFUL EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS YET





DID YOU SPOT ANY-THING?
YOU-

I'M NOT QUITE SURE YET
I DON'T KNOW

YOUR APPETITE-
IS AS HEALTHY AS EVER!

I MIGHT THINK OF SOMETHING.
BUT MAYBE IF I HAD SOMETHING TO EAT,

SIGH, LIFE IS FULL OF TWISTS AND TURNS..
OH? THAT'S PRETTY AB-NORMAL FOR A GOURMET LIKE YOU

SNIFF

SNIFF

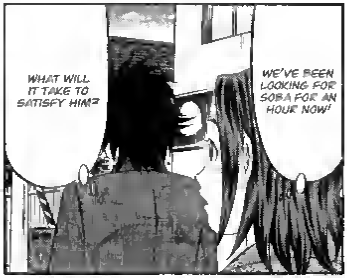
IT WAS TORTURE!
I ONLY HAD CUP NOODLES AND A BENTO BOX FROM THE MINIMART FOR LUNCH,

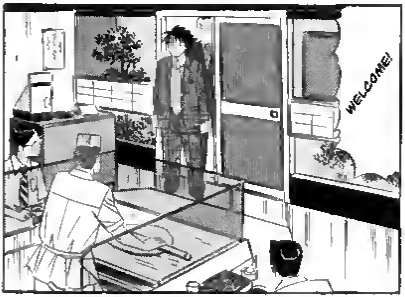
そば処
そば
SOMETHING LIGHT BETWEEN MEALS WOULD BE NICE
S- SOBA?
ホッ

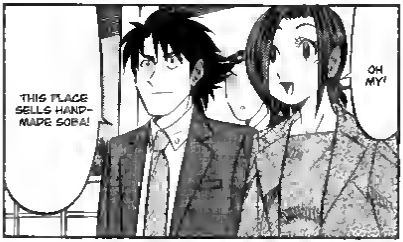
NOT THERE
NO,

そば
MATSU
手打そば
せりや
I- Is that so?
IT'S TOO CHEAP!

手打そば

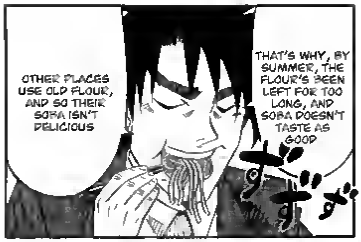

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOBA FOR AN HOUR NOW!
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SATISFY HIM?

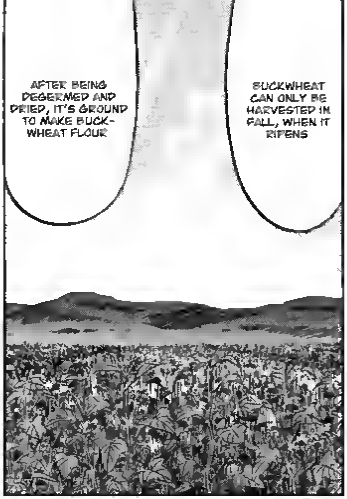

WELCOME!


OH MY!
THIS PLACE SELLS HAND-MADE SOBA!

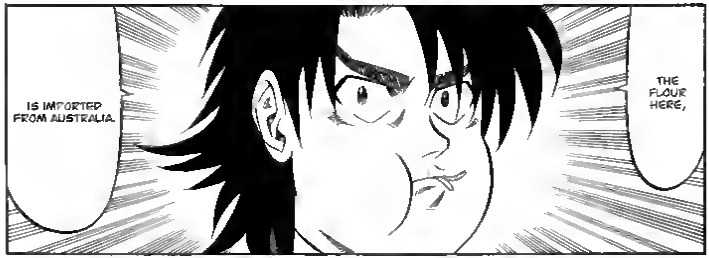
HERE YOU GO!
THESE LARGE ONES!
COMMON SENSE WOULD SAY THAT SOBA IN SUMMER WON'T TASTE GOOD,
BUT THESE SOBA NOODLES REALLY SMELL FRESH!
EVEN THE COLOR LOOKS FRESH!
THIS IS--!
WOW!
WOW!
ずずず

THIS PLACE IS WELL-KNOWN AMONG CONNOISSEURS!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
IT'S MY FIRST TIME EATING SUCH FRAGANT AND DELICIOUS SOBA!
THIS SOBA IS AWESOME!
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO SOBA AT OTHER PLACES!
AND IT SLIDES DOWN THE THROAT,
BUT THIS SOBA - I COULD GET HOOKED ON THE SMELL ALONE!
SOBA IN SUMMER IS USUALLY SOFT, AND HAS LOST ITS SCENT BY THEN
HUH?
IT'S THE FLOUR!
ONE MORE FOR ME!
THE BUCKWHEAT FLOUR IS DIFFERENT HERE

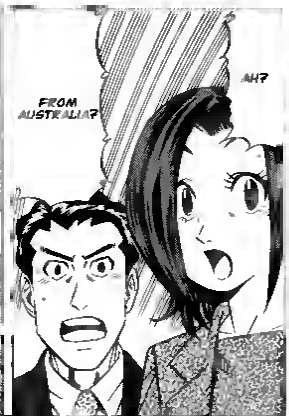

OTHER PLACES USE OLD FLOUR, AND SO THEIR SOBA ISN'T DELICIOUS
THAT'S WHY, BY SUMMER, THE FLOUR'S BEEN LEFT FOR TOO LONG, AND SOBA DOESN'T TASTE AS GOOD
ズズズ


BUCKWHEAT CAN ONLY BE HARVESTED IN FALL, WHEN IT RIPENS
AFTER BEING DEGERMED AND DRIED, IT'S GROUND TO MAKE BUCK-WHEAT FLOUR

WHY IS THE BUCKWHEAT FLOUR HERE FRESH?
BUT THEN,


IS IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA.
THE FLOUR HERE,

JAPANESE FARMERS GROW BUCKWHEAT IN AUSTRALIA, THEN EXPORT IT BACK TO JAPAN.
BECAUSE AUSTRALIA'S IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, ITS SEASONS ARE THE OPPOSITE TO JAPAN'S.


AH?
FROM AUSTRALIA?

NO WONDER IT'S SO TASTY!
I SEE!

AND THE PUREST WATER, WITH THE TASTIEST STOCK, SO OF COURSE THEIR SOBA IS THE BEST!
AND THIS SHOP USES ONLY THE HIGHEST-GRADE FLOUR,

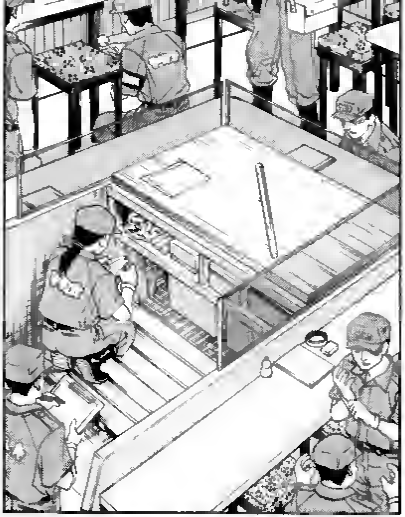
HAVE YOU LOOKED UP OUR BUSINESS OPERATIONS?
SIR, YOU KNOW A LOT,

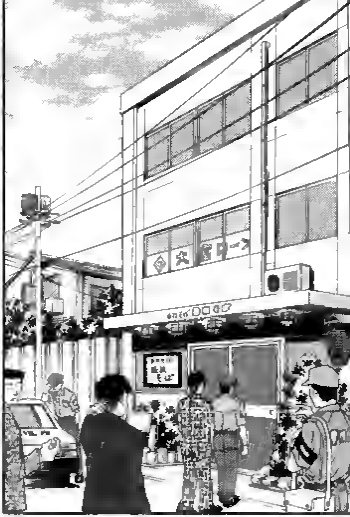
DID ANYTHING STRANGE HAPPEN TO YOUR STORE?
BOSS... IN THE LAST WEEK,

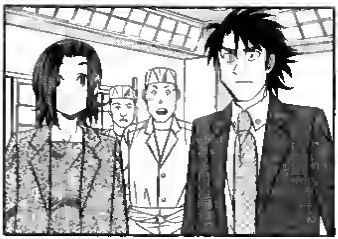
NOT AT ALL!
NO,

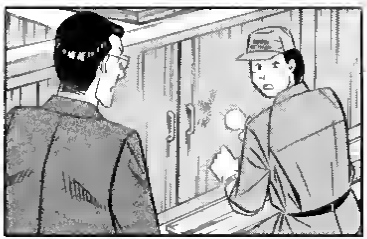
HUH?

HOW'D YOU KNOW?
AH?
HUH?
THREE DAYS AGO, WE HAD A BREAK-IN.
BUT NOTHING VALUABLE WAS STOLEN, SO WE DIDN'T CALL THE POLICE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH, WHAT?
INSPECT THE ENTIRE PLACE!
OGATA, GET A FORENSICS TEAM IN HERE!



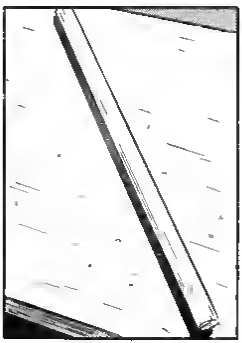




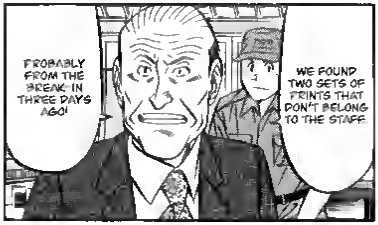


AND IT'S THE RIGHT SHAPE FOR THE MURDER!
THE ROLLING PIN TESTED POSITIVE FOR BLOOD!

MPD

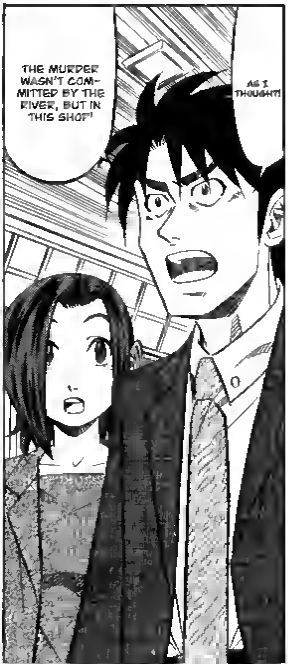


YAMAGUCHI SHO, AGE 24! ARRESTED FOR BURGLARY TWICE, AND WITH THE VICTIM!
WE'VE GOT A MATCH FOR THE OTHER SET OF PRINTS!


PROBABLY FROM THE BREAK-IN THREE DAYS AGO!
WE FOUND TWO SETS OF PRINTS THAT DON'T BELONG TO THE STAFF

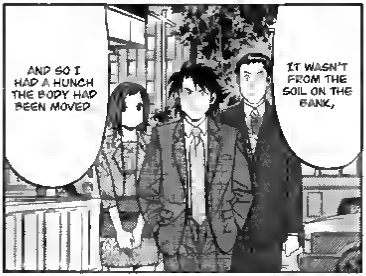
FUKUDA AKIRA, AGE 27, WITH A RECORD OF BURGLARY AND ASSAULT
ONE OF THE PRINTS MATCHES THE VICTIM!

AND THIS ROLLING PIN WAS THE MURDER WEAPON!
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE THE TWO BURGLARS FELL OUT—


THE MURDER WASN'T COMMITTED BY THE RIVER, BUT IN THIS SHOP!
AS I THOUGHT!

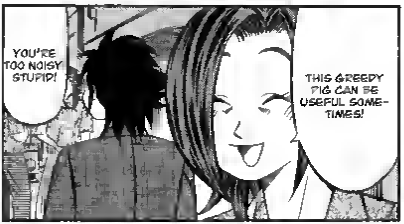
WHAT ORIGINALLY CAUGHT MY ATTENTION,
WAS THE WHITE POWDER ON THE VICTIM

IT WAS HIGH-QUALITY FLOUR, AND FRESH AT THAT
JUST THEN, I SMELT BUCKWHEAT FLOUR

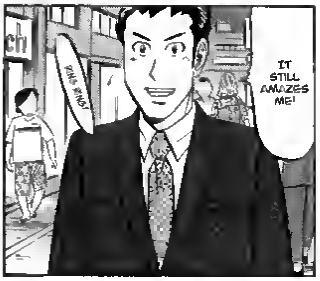

IT WASN'T FROM THE SOIL ON THE BANK,
AND SO I HAD A HUNCH THE BODY HAD BEEN MOVED

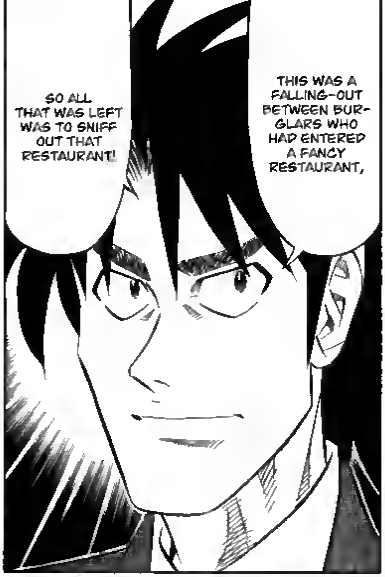
TOKYO IS FULL OF PLACES SELLING SOBA
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED IN A SOBA SHOP NEARBY?

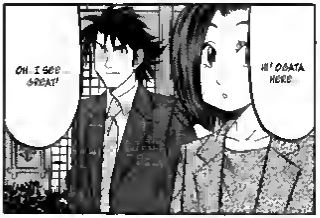
AMID THE STENCH OF THE ROTTING CORPSE YOU COULD PICK OUT SUCH A WEAK SCENT,
WHILE I WAS THERE ALL THE WHILE AND DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING!


THIS GREEDY PIG CAN BE USEFUL SOMETIMES!
YOU'RE TOO NOISY STUPID!

SUGGESTING THAT THE MURDER WASN'T PRE-MEDITATED
AND I GUESSED THAT THE MURDER WEAPON WAS A ROLLING PIN,
IF THE BODY WAS CARRIED HERE, THE MURDER COULDN'T HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TOO FAR AWAY
THERE WEREN'T ANY SUSPICIOUS TIRE TRACKS AROUND
IT MUST HAVE BEEN EITHER THE STAFF OR AN OUTSIDER
SINCE IT WAS A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT CRIME IN A SOBA SHOP,
AND COURT SHOES THAT DON'T MATCH HIS OUTFIT,
WEARING A BLACK LONG-SLEEVED TOP BUTTONED ALL THE WAY UP IN SUMMER,
HE DOESN'T SEEM AT ALL LIKE HE WORKS IN A FANCY KITCHEN
BUT LOOKING AT THE VICTIM'S CLOTHES,
THE REST WAS ELEMENTARY.
IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT HE WAS A BURGLAR


IT STILL AMAZES ME!
YUU SHOP


THIS WAS A FALLING-OUT BETWEEN BURGLARS WHO HAD ENTERED A FANCY RESTAURANT,
SO ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS TO SNIFF OUT THAT RESTAURANT!

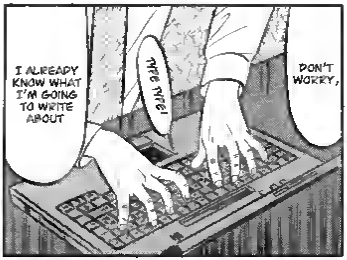

HI! OBATA HERE.
OH. I SEE. GREAT!

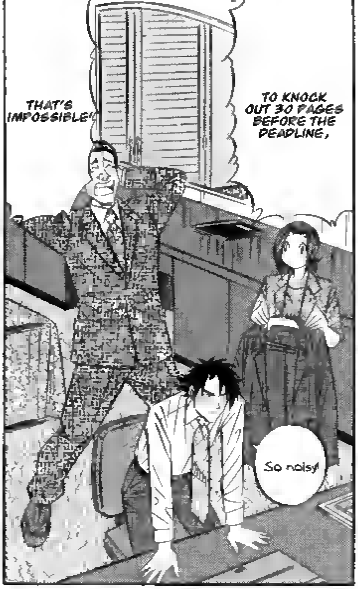
I COULDN'T STAND THAT GUY ANY LONGER!
HE WAS ALWAYS FULL OF BRIGHT IDEAS.

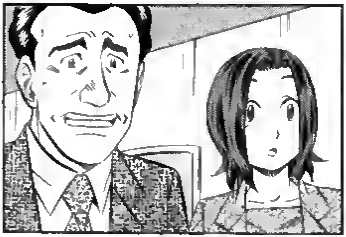
THEY'VE ARRESTED THE MURDERER!
IT WAS A FALLING-OUT BETWEEN BURGLARS EXACTLY AS SENTAI DEDUCED!

RIGHT THEN HE WAS DEPEEING ME ABOUT HERE AND THERE,
AND I SNAPPED!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SENPAI!
AN ELEGANT END TO THE CASE!
?
NO,
THERE'RE ONLY EIGHT HOURS LEFT!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW!
IT'S NOT OVER YET!


I ALREADY KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO WRITE ABOUT
TAPE TAPE
DON'T WORRY,


THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
TO KNOCK OUT 30 PAGES BEFORE THE DEADLINE,
So noisy!



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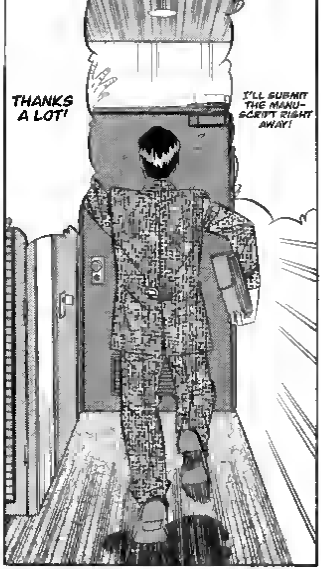
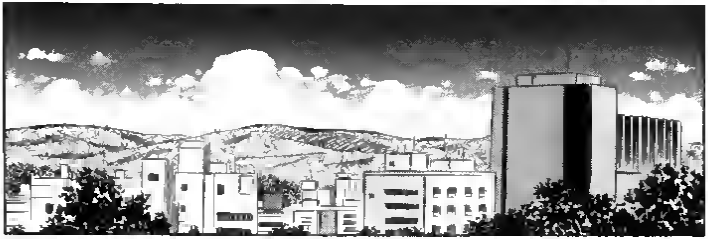
チチチ

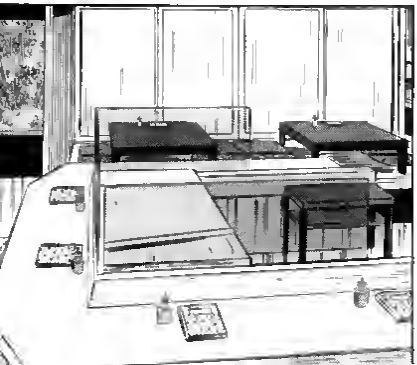
IT'S A MIRACLE!
WE MADE IT!

YOU DID IT, SENSEI!

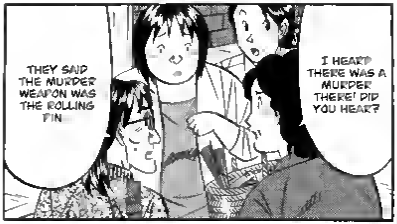

I'LL SUBMIT THE MANUSCRIPT RIGHT AWAY!
THANKS A LOT!

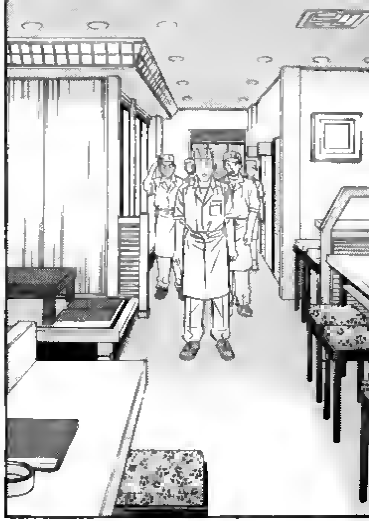
THAT
WAS TIRING!



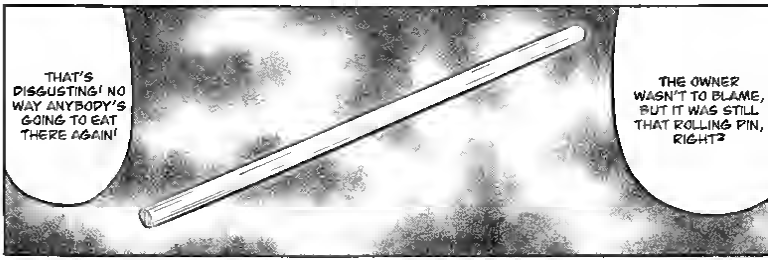


手打そば
手打そば

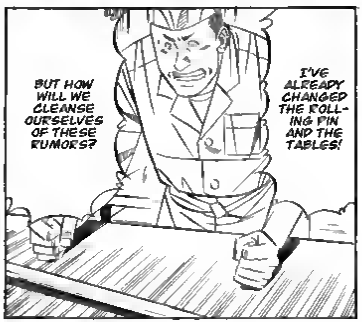

THEY SAID THE MURDER WEAPON WAS THE ROLLING PIN.
I HEARD THERE WAS A MURDER THERE! DID YOU HEAR?



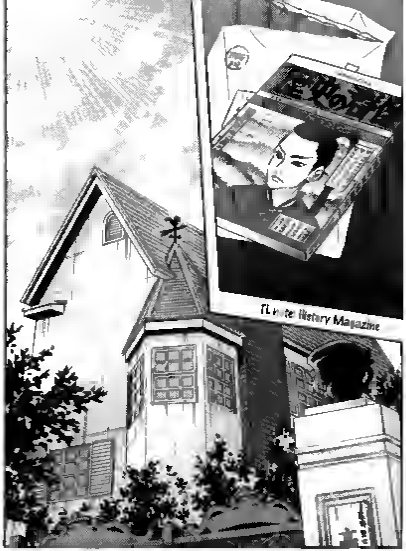
ARE THEY STILL USING THAT ROLLING PIN? OH GOOP-NESS!
THAT BURGLAR WAS HIT IN THE HEAD WITH THE PIN, AND HIS SKULL WENT SQUISH!

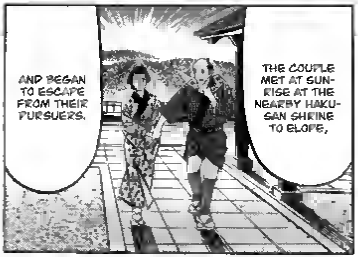

THAT'S DISGUSTING! NO WAY ANYBODY'S GOING TO EAT THERE AGAIN!
THE OWNER WASN'T TO BLAME, BUT IT WAS STILL THAT ROLLING PIN, RIGHT?

THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO CLOSE DOWN.
THIS SHOP IS DONE FOR!


BUT HOW WILL WE CLEANSE OURSELVES OF THESE RUMORS?
I'VE ALREADY CHANGED THE ROLLING PIN AND THE TABLES!

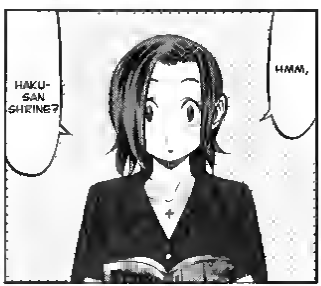
IT'S BEEN PRINTED!
EH? IT'S THE SHORT STORY SENSEI WROTE THEN


TL note: literary Magazine


AND BEGAN TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR PURSUERS.
THE COUPLE MET AT SUNRISE AT THE NEARBY HAKU-SAN SHRINE TO ELOPE,

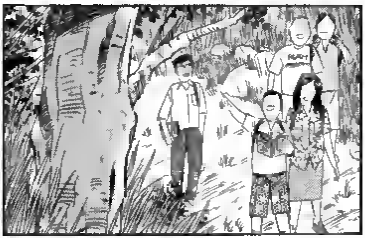
I NEVER THOUGHT SENSEI WAS SO ROMANTIC!
SO IT'S A TRAGIC LOVE STORY BETWEEN A RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER AND A POOR WORKER!

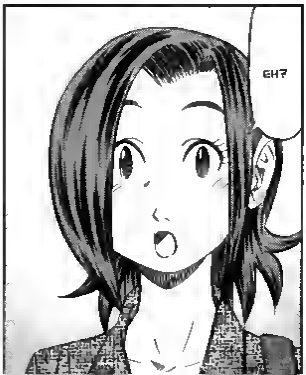
RIGHT AROUND THE SOBA SHOP WHERE THAT MURDER HAPPENED?
TH-ISN'T THAT-


HAKU-SAN SHRINE?
HMM,

WOW.
THAT'S WHERE KIHACHI AND O-MIYA PRAYED

PASSED THE RED WELL, AND ENTERED THE TOWN STREETS.
THEY CAME THROUGH THE SHRINE FROM HERE,



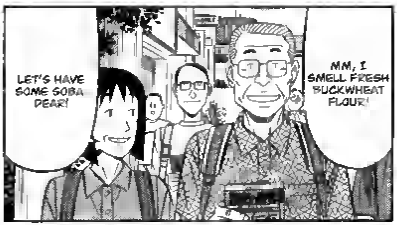

EH?

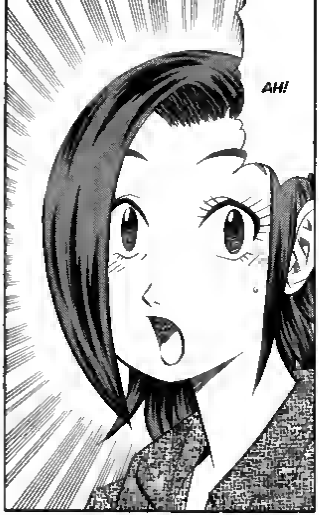
EVERYONE'S FOLLOWING THE ROUTE IN SENSEI'S STORY
LOTS OF COUPLES AND OLDER MEN

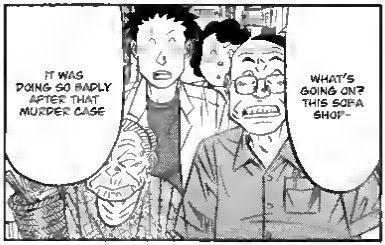
そば

IF YOU FOLLOW THE MAIN CHARACTERS' ROUTE,
YOU'LL REACH THE SOBA SHOP JUST AT LUNCHTIME!

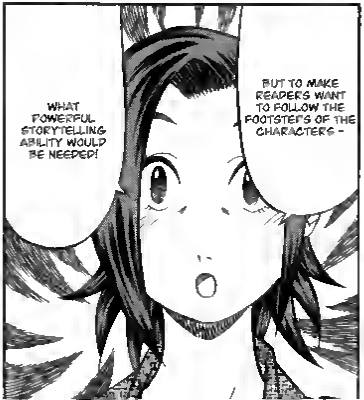
SUCH A LONG WALK IN THE MORNING MAKES ME HUNGRY!
GOOD THING THERE'S A SOBA SHOP RIGHT HERE!

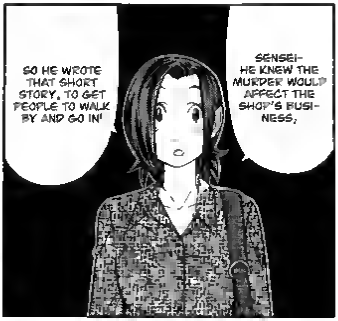

MM, I SMELL FRESH BUCKWHEAT FLOUR!
LET'S HAVE SOME SOBA DEAR!

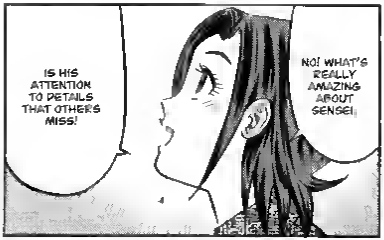

AH!


WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS SOBA SHOP-
IT WAS DOING SO BADLY AFTER THAT MURDER CASE

IT'S NOT OVER YET!


WHAT POWERFUL STORYTELLING ABILITY WOULD BE NEEDED!
BUT TO MAKE READERS WANT TO FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE CHARACTERS-


SO HE WROTE THAT SHORT STORY, TO GET PEOPLE TO WALK BY AND GO IN!
SENSEI- HE KNEW THE MURDER WOULD AFFECT THE SHOP'S BUSINESS,


IS HIS ATTENTION TO DETAILS THAT OTHERS MISS!
NO! WHAT'S REALLY AMAZING ABOUT SENSEI
ONLY HAS MEANING WHEN COMBINED WITH HIS AFFECTION FOR OTHERS!
AND TO SEE THE FUTURE SO ACCURATELY,

CUSTOMERS ARE STREAMING IN, HAHA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

TAKANO SEIYA!
THE GREAT DETECTIVE!
HMM?
Did I hear someone shouting my name?